

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claim 16, AMEND claims 1-4, 7-15 and 17 and ADD new claim 18 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A collaboration method effected through a peer-to-peer network, the method comprising:

~~a mail sending step which includes sending an electronic mail to a plurality of conferee peers, said electronic mail having a URL of a conference host peer described thereon for automatically taking part in a conference by clicking once; and~~

~~a data distribution step which includes searching a conferee peer at a shortest time location through communication tests from said conference host peer to distribute data, and, after distribution of data, informing remaining conferee peers that said data distributed conferee peer is a mirror of said remaining conferee peers, and searching a conferee peer at a shortest time location through communication tests from said conference host peer and from said mirror to distribute data, the above processes being repeated until data distribution completes, thereby constructing a distribution route via one or a plurality of other conferee peers serving as said mirror between said conference host peer and particular conferee peers.~~

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 1, wherein in said ~~mail sending an electronic mail step~~, said URL includes an HTML file and said HTML file has an ~~a URL of said host peer for use in peer connection.~~

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 2, wherein in said ~~mail sending step an electronic mail~~, said URL described on said electronic mail includes a URL of an Internet service provider that dynamically allocates IP addresses, and said URL described on said HTML file is a temporary URL, for use in peer connection, allocated from said Internet service provider to said conference host peer.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 1, wherein in said

~~mail-sending step~~an electronic mail, a specified time to start a conference and said URL are described on said electronic mail so that said conferee peers are kept on standby and activated at said specified time so as to allow said conferee peers to automatically take part in the conference.

5. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, wherein if there is a time lag with the mail sender side upon reception of an electronic mail, said conferee peer is activated at a specified time after correction of said time lag so as to allow said conferee peer to automatically take part in a conference.

6. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 1, wherein if there is a time lag with the mail sender side upon reception of an electric mail, said conferee peer automatically corrects the system time of the mail receiver side into the system time of the mail sender side and activates at a specified time so as to allow said conferee peer to automatically take part in a conference.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 1, wherein in said ~~data distribution step~~searching a conferee peer, when a conferee peer to be a data requester receives a plurality of addresses of data distributors, said conferee peer searches a data distributor at a shortest time location through a communication test to each data distributor and requests data distribution of said data distributor at a shortest time location.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 1 or 7, wherein said ~~data distribution step~~searching a conferee peer includes allowing conference data as said data to be automatically distributed from said conference host peer to all conferee peers or to a conferee peer that made a request.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 7, wherein said ~~data distribution step~~searching a conferee peer includes allowing conference data to be automatically distributed before the conference starts through connection of said conference host peer and said conferee peers.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 1 or 7, wherein said ~~data distribution step~~searching a conferee peer includes allowing a conference log of the

previous conference to be automatically distributed as said data from said conference host peer to all conferee peers or a conferee peer that made a request.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 10, wherein said ~~data distribution step~~ ~~searching a conferee peer~~ includes allowing said conference log of the previous conference to be distributed from a certain peer to only conferee peers that took part halfway in the conference.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

~~an application sharing step which includes~~ sharing any application currently running on a plurality of conferee peers inclusive of said conference host peer while a conference is being held, and free-hand drawing or entering notes onto images generated by said application.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim ~~11~~ 12, wherein said ~~application sharing step~~ includes uploading images containing free-hand drawing to a Web server so as to allow a browse by the browser.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim ~~11~~ 12, wherein said ~~application sharing step~~ includes arranging, on a Web screen to be browsed, URLs of conferee peers for automatically taking part in a conference only by clicking once.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A collaboration system by a peer-to-peer network, said system comprising:

a mail sending unit which sends an electronic mail to a plurality of conferee peers, said electronic mail having a URL of a conference host peer described thereon for automatically taking part in a conference by clicking once; and

a data distribution unit which searches a conferee peer at a shortest time location through communication tests from said conference host peer to distribution data, and, after distribution of data, informs remaining conferee peers that said data distributed conferee peer is a mirror of said remaining conferee peers, and searches a conferee peer at a shortest time location through communication tests from said conference host peer and from said mirror to distribute data, said data distribution unit repeating the above processes until data distribution

completes, thereby constructing a distribution route via one or a plurality of other conferee peers serving as said mirror between said conference host peer and particular conferee peers.

16. (CANCELLED)

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer readable record medium having thereon stored a program allowing a computer to execute:

~~a mail sending step which includes sending an electronic mail to a plurality of conferee peers, said electronic mail having a URL of a conference host peer described thereon for automatically taking part in a conference by clicking once; and~~

~~a data distribution step which includes searching a conferee peer at a shortest time location through communication tests from said conference host peer to distribute data, and, after distribution of data, informing remaining conferee peers that said data distributed conferee peer is a mirror of said remaining conferee peers, and searching a conferee peer at a shortest time location through communication tests from said conference host peer and from said mirror to distribute data, the above processes being repeated until data distribution completes, thereby constructing a distribution route via one or a plurality of other conferee peers serving as said mirror between said conference host peer and particular conferee peers.~~

18. (NEW) The method according to claim 1, wherein said searching comprises:

measuring a communication time wherein each of said plurality of conferee peers having received said electronic mail requests said conference host peer to distribute data and carry out communication tests;

measuring the communication time through communication tests for said plurality of conferee peers by said conference host peer having received material distribution requests from the plurality of conferee peers, retrieving the conferee peer giving the shortest communication time, transmitting the retrieved data, using the same as an own mirror, and then, notifying the other conferee peers to whom the data has not as yet been distributed of said conferee peer serving as said mirror;

causing the conferee peers to whom the data has not as yet been distributed to advance a request for distribution of the data to said conference host peer and said conferee peer serving as said mirror, carrying out communication tests to measure the communication time, and requesting distribution of the data to said conferee host peer or said conferee peer serving as said mirror giving the shortest communication time;

informing the other conferee peers to whom the data has not yet been distributed of said conferee peer serving as the mirror, after transmitting the data to said requesting conferee peer to serve as his own mirror upon receipt of a data distribution request from a single conferee peer by said conference peer serving as the mirror;

notifying the other conferee peers to whom the data has not as yet been distributed of said conferee peer serving as the mirror after measuring a communication time through communication tests to a plurality of requesting conferee peers upon receipt of a data distribution request by said conferee peer serving as the mirror from a plurality of conferee peers, retrieving a conferee peer giving a shortest communication time and transmitting the data to deem the same as the own mirror; and

repeating said informing and notifying until completion of data transmission to all the conferee peers.